

Leicester, Mass. Sept. 21. 1862.

Dear friend Webb,

A few days since I received a note from "Geo. H. Jacob", dated "Stamp Office, Wexford, Sept. 1. 1862", requesting me to advertise again for Thomas Sparrow, & naming the "^{at Boston} Pilot" and the "Irish-American" at New York (by the advice of the U.S. Consul at Galway) as the best media for advertising in the case. The enclosed is a reply to Mr. Jacob, which I have left open for you to read, & will thank you then to seal and post. Even should I do anything ^{more} in the case (which I certainly would, & gladly, if you thought any advantage was likely to arise), I should wish you to know the circumstances, and to forward ~~to~~ your opinion of the advisability of my so doing, - as I am totally a stranger to Mr. Jacob, & he to me.

- I have had no line from you since the sad one which told of your bereavement & great sorrow. I hope you received mine, in reply, telling you what I had done, in accordance with your wish, in notifying various friends. - Much and deep sympathy has been felt here, with you, your son and your daughters, in this visitation and grief, and we anxiously desire to hear from you all, as to your health both of body and of mind. I hope a letter may be on the way to me, from you.

You always ask, with kind remembrances about us, & particularly my 'Navy' boy. We have had the great pleasure of having him with us for a short time, after a year's absence. He was detached from the 'Uladilla', in which he saw nearly a year's service, & some desperate hard fighting, altho' the most of the time was very monotonously spent. As soon as his successor in office arrived, he was on the point of leaving; but finding the "U." was herself ordered to New York for repairs, it was decided he sh'd. await her coming. This delayed him a few days. On the way North, a severe blow compelled the vessel to make a harbor in the Delaware river, where he left her, & came on by Railroad, and one Wednesday morning, about 3 wks. since, before most of us were "up", the cry went thro' the house "Edward's come." And sure enough, there he was, tall & straight as usual, but quite thin in flesh, more so, his Mother thought, than she had ever seen him before. However, he declared he was never better in his life, so a little flesh more or less did not much matter. Of course he had a very warm welcome here, and our neighbours joined in giving it very heartily. But he staid with us only 24 hours, & then to Boston. The rules of the service giving him a certain time to finish his accounts with his regiment, he devoted himself to the same, & found time to spare for visiting relatives & friends in Boston & neighbourhood. Eight days ago, he went to "Washington carrying his accounts. There he received new orders to report himself at the town of Cairo, Illinois, - a place at the junction of the Ohio

& Mississippi rivers, where has long been a Fort, and, since
this (unfortunately managed) War broke out, a depot for War
^{I could not help writing this}
steamers, gunboats, &c. The Government is about to make it
an extensive Naval (so to speak) Depot, and E. is ordered thither
to assist in carrying forward the project. It is considered a very
responsible & important duty, and, being "Shore-duty," a more
desirable position than one at sea, - a position to which so young
an officer, as he, is not usually considered to be entitled. If this is
the correct view, it shows that Confidence is placed in E.'s judgment
& qualifications. Indeed we have had several reasons to think that
the Department were not dissatisfied with E.'s work, - the best
& strongest of which was his early promotion (some 6 mos. ago) to the
rank of a full Paymaster in the Navy. - Having rec'd. his orders,
he immediately left Washington, & on Friday morng. last, again (quite
suddenly) popped in upon us at the early hour of 5½ a.m. This
time he stayed but about 15 hours with us, & then (9 p.m.) left us,
taking his sister Adeline with him, by a late train arriving in Boston
just at midnight. - (When he went before, his mother accompanied
him, & stayed a fortnight with him in Boston & vicinity, seeing him
almost daily.) He is to start tomorrow or next day for his new post.
- I fear it will ~~not~~ be an agreeable position. The town lies on a
low & sunken level, and is often under water. Dykes (or levees) are
needed to keep out the water, & the place is considered very far
from being a healthy one; - but the unhealthy season is near its
end for this year. Other & greater exposures remain. We can
however only acquiesce, and trust that the same Great Power
which has spared him to us & protected him hitherto will yet
uphold him, and guard him in the hour of danger. - We sh.

feel happier & more willing about it, if this War had in
the element of Justice, Righteousness, & Deliverance to the Slave
~~s~~^{slavery}, which it ought to have, and which we have abidingly
believed it would have, before this. Disappointed by and
our President and his Advisers, as we have been, again
again, we are not willing even now to abandon all hope, even
of him. But we are painfully certain that, on the principle
upon which the war is now carried on, no permanent or real
success can possibly attend us, - indeed, that we deserve it,
and it cannot be that God will prosper our undertaking, until
we bring it into harmony with His Law, and with what we
ourselves well enough know to be just and right. Slowly-
too slowly) the Northern people are learning this, ^{but they are learning it,} of that fact
not the shadow of a doubt can be entertained; whether the
knowledge will come in time to save us, is the real question
now, - one of which I will not despair, but about which (I do
I am less sanguine than I was. When I see the strongest
expressions of the Necessity of making Freedom for All the leading
principle of the War, ^{uttered} in quarters hitherto accustomed to speak
only in terms of denunciation & derision of the Anti-Slavery side
I am greatly encouraged. When, on the other hand, I look at
President and see how doggedly bent he is on his Constitutional
theory, how narrowly prejudiced he is on every point where
the colored man's rights as a man are involved, how
intolerably slow he is to apprehend the vital ^{points} ~~parts~~ in this
terrible Civil War, - I am thrown all aback, and I almost despair.
- This reminds me of a Discourse in yesterday's Standard, by
A. B. Frothingham of New York, which I have read to-day ad interim.
Do read it, if you can command the time for it. —